

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-02 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-01 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AGR-05 AID-05 /075 W

----- 102886

R 041115Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1361

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 8184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL

REF: A) STATE 233834

B) VIENTIANE 8084

1. ALL ELEMENTS OF EMBASSY VIENTIANE CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL TOOK DUE NOTE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL DRUG ABUSE WEEK (REFTEL A).

2. SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE U.S.-RLG PROGRAM HERE IN 1971, LAOS HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM STATUS OF A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF HEROIN TO U.S. TROOPS SERVING IN VIETNAM TO THAT OF A RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT REGIONAL SUPPLIER AND RECEIVER OF DRUGS (MOSTLY OPIUM).

3. THE RESULTS TO DATE ARE ENCOURAGING, BUT THEY CLEARLY DERIVE FROM THE IMPETUS U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE BY VIRTUE OF OUR CLOSE AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WITH
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LOCAL AUTHORITIES. LOCAL CAPABILITIES REMAIN DISTINCTLY

LIMITED; THEREFORE WE BELIEVE THAT WE MUST CONTINUE OUR ASSISTANCE IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS -- ENFORCEMENT, INCOME SUBSTITUTION, ADDICT REHABILITATION -- FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD BEFORE WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT THE LAO WILL HAVE THE WILL AND CAPABILITY TO TAKE OVER THESE PROGRAMS AND KEEP THEM RUNNING. A RECENT VISIT BY A TEAM FROM THE UNFDAC HAS RAISED THE WELCOME PROSPECT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, BUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE PATHET LAO ELEMENT OF THE PGNU TOWARD THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IS NOT YET CLEAR. FOR THESE VARIOUS REASONS WE ARE IN NO SENSE COMPLACENT ABOUT THE FUTURE.

4. I HAVE RECENTLY REVIEWED PERSONALLY THE ENTIRE RANGE OF OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAMS, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B, AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT OUR COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT HERE HAS THE PROPER PROPORTIONS AND DIRECTION. IN THE LONG-RUN, NARCOTICS CONTROL CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY IMPOSED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT ITSELF. HERE IN LAOS, DESPITE GREAT PROGRESS MADE SO FAR AND EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM PGNU, WE ARE NOT YET AT THIS TAKE OFF POINT AND CLEARLY THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO SUSTAIN ITS EFFORTS OVER SOME TIME YET BEFORE WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE RLG HAS THIS SCOURGE UNDER CONTROL.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DRUG ABUSE, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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